

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a possible satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community.

Since cable TV was deregulated again in 1996 the price of cable has increased significantly. My cable bill has gone from \$37 to \$57.65 and that is for BASIC SERVICE.

Because I reside in Chicago I need to rent cable box converters in order to receive any cable stations. I have 3 TVs hooked to cable--in addition to basic cable I pay \$4.03 per month for each converter box.

AT&T cable has become a monopoly. The fees have gone up without additional channels, and poor customer service.

I am a recent young widow and cannot afford the increases in cable, therefore I plan to change to satellite.

The merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Leslie Suerth  
7307 W. Ibsen St  
Chicago, IL 60631